
Sefton Rural District.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR 1904,

BY

JAMES CHARLES BRADSHAW, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

DONARD LODGE,

WALTON,

LIVERPOOL, 18th February, 1905.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Sefton District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

Herewith I submit to you my Annual Report for the past year, 1904.

Births

During the twelve months ending on December 31st last, 373 births have been registered in the district (184 males and 189 females), as against 325 in the previous year.

Birth Rate

The Birth Rate for the year is 33·0 per 1,000 inhabitants, as compared with 28·8 in 1903 and 28·2 in 1902.

Population

I am working these figures on the estimated population of 1903, namely, 11,260.

Deaths

During the year 156 deaths occurred in the district, 9 died in the Liverpool Hospital for Infectious Diseases situated in Fazakerley, but none of these belonged to our district. Eighteen persons belonging to our district died in Public Institutions not our own. This leaves a net number of deaths to account for in my returns of 165.

Death Rate

The Death Rate for the year 1904 is therefore 14·6, as against 13·7 in 1903 and 14·2 in 1902. A slight increase, but compares favourably when the considerable increase in the Birth Rate is noted.

Infant Death Rate

The Death Rate of Infants per 1,000 born is 152·8, as against 138·4 in 1903—another slight increase, but easily accounted for when we consider the severe and fatal outbreak of Epidemic Diarrhoea in the late summer.

Zymotic Death Rate

The Death Rate from the Principal Zymotic Diseases is 0·88 per 1000 inhabitants, a very low one for a District contiguous to a large City like Liverpool.

Cases Notified
under Compulsory
Notification Act

The Cases of Infectious Diseases notified to me during the year are as follows—

	0 cases of Smallpox		as against 24 in 1903.
9	„ Diphtheria	„	20 „ „
4	„ Erysipelas	„	9 „ „
50	„ Scarlet Fever	„	70 „ „
12	„ Enteric Fever	„	4 „ „
0	„ Puerperal Fever	„	1 „ „
1	„ Relapsing Fever	„	0 „ „
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Totals...	76	128

This is a very marked decrease, and the figures say more than written remarks can for the generally Sanitary condition of the District.

Distribution of
Infectious Cases

The cases of Infectious Diseases were distributed as follows :—

	Diph- theria.	Ery- sipelas.	Scarlet Fever.	Enteric Fever.	Relapsing Fever.	Totals.
Fazakerley	3	3	18	4	0	28
Kirkby	0	0	2	0	0	2
West Derby Rural ...	0	0	6	9	0	6
Croxteth	0	0	0	0	0	0
Orrell and Ford	2	1	11	7	0	21
Netherton	3	0	2	0	0	5
Sefton	0	0	0	0	1	1
Aintree	1	0	4	0	0	5
Lunt	0	0	0	1	0	1
Thornton	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ince Blundell	0	0	7	0	0	7
<hr/> Totals	9	4	50	12	1	76

Cases Treated in
Hospital

Twenty-seven cases of Scarlet Fever, six of Diphtheria, and one of Enteric Fever were treated in the Liverpool City Infectious Hospitals Our own small Hospital at Kirkby has not been open during the year.

Disinfection of
Bedding, etc.

This, as heretofore, has been promptly and efficiently carried out by the City of Liverpool Health Committee according to our arrangement with them.

PARISHES.

Aintree —

This Township has been little affected by Infection, one case of Diphtheria and four of Scarlet Fever only having come to my knowledge. The water supply is entirely from Liverpool Mains and the Parish is in a good Sanitary condition

Orrell and Ford

Two cases of Diphtheria, one of Erysipelas, eleven of Scarlet Fever, and seven of Enteric Fever have occurred here. This is not a large return for so populous a Township and considering the present Sewerage arrangements (more of which will appear later in this Report). Many of these cases were treated in the Liverpool City Hospital. The rest at their own homes.

Nearly all these cases of Infection were again notified from the portion of Orrell known as "Klondyke," one of the most increasing and populous portions of the District.

Thornton and
Ince Blundell

These Townships, which are purely Agricultural, are always singularly free from Infection. Only seven cases of Scarlatina have occurred, all in one cottage which stands isolated near the Rifle Range, and being in such a good position they were naturally treated in their own home. The water supply of this cottage is, however, bad, and has been condemned. No good water seems obtainable, and the cottage will probably be closed on that account.

Sefton

Only one case of Zymotic Disease, a case of Relapsing Fever, has occurred here. Several samples of water from wells have again been analysed and all condemned as unfit for drinking purposes. However, the arrangements are now practically complete for the extension of the Liverpool water main to all portions of the Parish, and by my next report will undoubtedly be an established fact, a matter for congratulation for all concerned.

Netherton

The water question here is similar to Sefton and the same extension is to be made. Three cases of Diphtheria and two of Scarlet Fever comprise the Infection.

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- Lunt One case of Typhoid Fever occurred here at Rose Farm, and I hope the scheme for water extension will be applied here also, as the water from the wells is bad.
- Kirkby This large straggling Township has only had two cases of Scarlet Fever notified.
- Sewage The Septic Tank for Kirkby Park is doing its work well and without a great deal of attention. Glover's Brow should also be drained into this, but to do so it will require a larger filtration area.
- West Derby Rural and Croxteth No complaints, as of old, have been received from the neighbouring Sanitary Authority.
- Another large and straggling Township, nearly all Agricultural, but joining the City of Liverpool. Six cases of Scarlet Fever have been reported here.
- Ashpits Many complaints of Pig and other nuisances have been received and attended to and mostly rectified. The principal one relates to the Crown Brewery, Deysbrook Lane, which has for some time been turned into a Pig Breeding and Rearing Industry. All attempts to abate the nuisance having failed, your Council have applied to the Magistrates for an order to close the place, and the matter having been heard, an injunction order has been granted, and I hope will be complied with without further delay. It is an intolerable nuisance, carried on in premises which were built for an entirely different purpose.
- The Ashpits and Middens here are still emptied by Contract, and as far as I can judge, the Contract is satisfactorily carried out.
- Common Lodging Houses Common Lodging Houses exist only in this Township. They have been from time to time inspected, and are kept fairly clean and not now overcrowded.
- Fazakerley The most Populous Township in the District and still developing. Plans have been passed for a new Estate near the Station which, when completed, will make it somewhat in the proportion of a town. Our largest amount of Infection has occurred here, naturally as it contains the largest population, the number of cases notified being Diphtheria 3, Erysipelas 3, Scarlet Fever 18, Enteric Fever 4—total 28.

Cottage Homes

The Cottage Homes of the West Derby Union in this Township have again been particularly free from Infection. One mild case of Enteric Fever and one of Scarlet Fever only have occurred in them. It seems almost miraculous that year after year so little of the Infantile Zymotic Diseases are found here when we consider that 400 to 500 children are always in residence. The Sanitary condition of these Homes is as nearly perfect as can possibly be.

Jam Factory

Mr. Hartley's enormous Jam Factory is also situate in this Parish. This is also carried on in a manner highly satisfactory to me, and is always kept in an excellent Sanitary condition.

This Township is now practically all drained into the Liverpool sewers and the water entirely supplied by that City's mains.

Fazakerley

The New Property, known as Thornburn's Estate, off Longmoor Lane, still causes some trouble. The back passages are not properly paved, and accumulations of water and filth are frequently found. The old so-called Septic Tank, which was made by the owners with a view to draining the houses is not used, and should be now done away with, as it is not in a Sanitary condition and is likely to be a danger to health. A few cases of Diphtheria have lately occurred on this property, and your officials are anxious to have some attention paid to the matter, but find it difficult to serve notices, as the property seems to have been in many hands and responsibility is denied.

Common
Nuisances, etc.

During the year the following nuisances, &c., have been dealt with under the supervision of your Sanitary Inspector—

Notices to cleanse and strip premises after infection	...	77
Blocked drains opened and repaired	...	67
Offensive ditches cleansed	...	5
New cesspools provided, and overflows from cesspools stopped	...	11
Accumulations of stagnant water and filth removed	...	14
Pigs and Poultry filthily kept	...	10
Ashpits and w.c.'s repaired and roofed over	...	14
Tenants' erections removed, which interfered with light and air-space at rear of dwellings	...	9

Samples of drinking water submitted for analysis, 8.

25 complaints from the public have been received of alleged nuisances and steps taken to secure their abatement.

The number of inspections and visits relating to the abatement of nuisances made was 603.

The number of visits paid to houses at which Infectious Disease existed was 157.

Dairies, Cowsheds,
and Milkshops

Periodical visits have been made to these, and they are all kept in a satisfactory condition. The cubic space per animal of 800 feet is always insisted on as a minimum in all new cowsheds.

Factories and
Workshops

The Factories and Workshops have been periodically inspected, and any suggestions for Sanitary Improvements have been willingly carried out.

Bakehouses

None.

Summary

A very satisfactory year as regards Infection, a decrease of over 40 per cent. being shown. No Smallpox has occurred, and the Scarlet Fever has been of a very mild variety, only two deaths from this disease having occurred in the whole district. Three deaths only from Enteric also is very satisfactory.

Sewerage of Orrell

The principal trouble now is the Drainage of Orrell. It is in a most unsatisfactory condition, and the time has arrived when, in my opinion, a new and systematic sewage plan should be adopted. Here we have about 600 houses emptying their sewage into an open ditch which runs into Bootle, and in that Borough makes an open sewer for about 400 yards before being received into the main sewer in Stanley Road.

An Epidemic in such a locality would come as no surprise, and I must ask your Council to take immediate steps to install a proper system of Sewerage, which would not be complete unless the whole of Orrell were included.

Disinfection and
Removal of Patients

I have again to express my satisfaction at the prompt and courteous manner in which the Liverpool Health Committee has removed and housed our Infectious cases and carried out the Disinfection of bedding, etc.

Copies I am, as usual, sending Copies of this Report to the Lancashire County Council and the Local Government Board according to their Regulations.

Forms Printed Forms, duly filled in, on New Principle I. to IV., of Births, Deaths, and New Cases of Sickness, are herewith appended.

Present state of District At the time of closing this Report, there is very little Infection in the District, and nothing beyond what is mentioned to call for your special attention.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES CHARLES BRADSHAW, L.R.C.P., D.P.H., &c.,

Medical Officer of Health.

